

ABSTRACT

A system and method in a workstation connected to a network for verifying the trustworthiness of a certificate issued by a certificate authority. A certificate from a certificate authority is received and held in storage pending verification. The purported identity of the certificate authority is determined, and sent to a certificate authority filter. The filter returns information regarding the purported certificate authority and the public key of the certificate authority. The trustworthiness of the certificate authority is determined by reference to the information returned by the filter and by verifying the signature of the certificate using the public key.